

KOŚCIUSZKO, TADEUSZ

DRAWING 26

COMPARISON

1/2000 OF 24701



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Abraham Lincoln Comparisons

Tadeusz Kościuszko

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

OPEN FORUM

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TWO GREAT MEN: LINCOLN AND KOSCIUSKO

To the Editor:

Not many people know that two great men were born on same day of the month, Lincoln and Kosciusko (pronounced *Coshchusko*). They were both of the people and both devoted their lives to the interests of the people.

Lincoln rose to the highest position of honor in the history of mankind. He lived in a time when the country reached a crisis in its noble career. His wisdom in time became the property and the solace of all humanity.

Kosciusko, one of Washington's ablest generals, was the first European soldier of distinction to hear the call of freedom and cross the sea in 1776, having preceded Lafayette by a year.

He came here not because he sought fortune or for hatred of the British but because he loved freedom. Just as Lincoln laid stress on the immortality of his country, so did Kosciusko speak of Poland after the rising:

"When the Polish nation called me to defend the integrity, the independence, the dignity, the glory and the liberty of the country, she knew well that I was not the last Pole, and that with my death on the battlefield or elsewhere, Poland could not, must not, end."

—S. M. BRYA,
Minneapolis.

Birthdays of Lincoln and Kosciusko

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 1957

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, February 12 is an anniversary twice sacred to me and other Polish-Americans. It is the birthday of two men devoted to freedom, our own Abraham Lincoln, and Thaddeus Kosciusko, of Poland.

Kosciusko served freedom during the American Revolution, at Saratoga and at Yorktown. He left America when the infant Republic had secured its independence and returned to his beloved homeland, whose freedom had yet to be won.

He fought Russian and Prussian with skill and courage, and refused to become a pawn of either empire after his homeland was reduced to submission.

He was one who fought for freedom wherever it was in danger. If he had been asked why he fought in faraway places for the liberty of men of another nationality he would have explained, as do all Poles, "For your freedom and our own," a simple recognition that no one may be truly free while some are enslaved.

Abraham Lincoln—Tadeusz Kosciuszko

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1959

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Mr. Speaker, we have gathered here today in the Halls of the Congress to observe the 150th birthday anniversary of the 16th President and one of the greatest sons of our country, Abraham Lincoln. On this day, also, we commemorate the birthday of a famous adopted son of our country, and a hero of the Revolutionary War, Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

In their backgrounds, Lincoln and Kosciuszko were far apart. Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky, received little formal education, and advanced from his humble origins to the highest office in our land.

Kosciuszko, in contrast, was born in Poland, of a well-to-do family, and received excellent education. He was a graduate of the Military Academy in Warsaw and the Military School of Artillery in Paris. Unlike Lincoln, he was principally a soldier.

But in spite of their divergent backgrounds, Lincoln and Kosciuszko were alike in their love and liberty and justice, and in their belief in the dignity and basic equality of men.

It is these convictions which they shared, and for which they lived and died, that have earned them our love, gratitude, and honor.

The lives of these two men, and their achievements, are well known to all of us. I shall not endeavor to repeat them. I would, however, like to bring out one point which seems very significant, and very pertinent to the problems which our Nation, and the rest of the free world, face today.

Both Lincoln and Kosciuszko were involved directly in tremendous struggles

to assure the freedom, and the unity, of our Nation. And they both clearly realized, and so indicated in their speeches and writings, that those wars were not fought solely for the sake of the then-living generations. Those wars were fought so that generations to come could enjoy liberty, justice, and progress in a free, democratic, and united nation.

We, too, are involved in a great and terrible conflict: the conflict between the free world and communism. The outcome of this conflict may well determine the survival of our Western Civilization, and the survival of the priceless heritage which came to us through the efforts and sacrifices of men like Lincoln and Kosciuszko.

We must realize and remember, therefore, as they did so clearly, that what is at stake in this conflict is not only our own future, but also the future of our children and of our children's children for many generations to come. Our actions today will determine the framework of the society in which they will live for decades and even centuries to come.

With God's help, and a firm stand and willingness to sacrifice on our part, we may preserve our heritage and pass it on to our children, so that they too will be able to enjoy liberty and justice.

This is our responsibility. God give us strength that, inspired by the example of Lincoln and Kosciuszko, our Nation today and in the days to come may live up to that responsibility.

Compare

**Abraham Lincoln and Thaddeus
Kosciusko**

**EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF**

HON. JOHN BRADEMAS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1960

Mr. BRADEMAS. Mr. Speaker, on
February 12 we commemorate not only

the 151st anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, but we also mark the 214th anniversary of the birth of Thaddeus Kosciusko, the great Polish statesman, military engineer, patriot of two continents.

I should like to indicate in what ways these two leaders have much in common, but before making such a comparison, let me speak briefly of the life of Kosciusko.

His birthright was Polish. The natural splendors of the New World were unseen by his young eyes and the democratic culture of the American Colonies was alien to his noble background. Yet from halfway around the world he came to share his own vision of liberty and justice with the Founding Fathers of our country. A true son of Poland, he gave of himself, wholly and freely, to the cause of the American Revolution, distinguishing himself both in combat and in the erection of military fortifications. A grateful Congress bestowed upon him the rank of brigadier general, and the appreciative people of his adopted land offered him honors and citizenship. But the success of the American Revolution had intensified his fervent desire to see his own homeland free and he returned to Poland.

In his native country he was to know few successes in his mission to see Poland throw off foreign domination. Once, for but a moment, he sat at the head of a free Poland and instituted the guarantees of constitutional government for which he had worked with such dedication. Although Poland's freedom was then to be shortlived, Kosciusko had ignited the spark of liberty in the hearts of his fellow countrymen. Never again, though their nation was to be conquered by forces from the East and the West, was that flame to be snuffed out.

SPIRIT OF KOSCIUSKO ALIVE TODAY IN POLAND

Mr. Speaker, the spirit of Kosciusko is alive today in Poland. It is as enduring as the spirit of Washington and Lincoln which is so much a part of the American people that it can never be separated from us. This common spirit, in Poland and in America, will live forever and it will, in time, triumph over all tyranny.

It is natural that most Americans think of February 12 primarily as the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Yet there are more similarities than their date of birth between Kosciusko and Lincoln. Both were men of peace, yet compelled to employ the tools of war. Both dedicated most of their lives to the unity of their respective nations, yet their example has had great impact among peoples all over the world. Both were vigorous participants in the events of their own day, yet they will have an enduring influence upon the histories of their respective countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that on the anniversary of the birth of Lincoln and Kosciusko, the citizens of Poland and the United States, now so sorely tried by despotism, should rededicate themselves to their heritage of freedom. This spirit of freedom, so integrally a part of the traditions of both Poland and America, is a bond between our peoples that can never be broken.

